

January 23, 2012

The Honorable Patrick J. Leahy
Chairman
United States Senate
Committee on the Judiciary
224 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Charles E. Grassley
Ranking Member
United States Senate
Committee on the Judiciary
152 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Re: Mary G. Lewis

Dear Chairman Leahy and Senator Grassley:

As a member of the South Carolina Bar who has had the opportunity to know Mary Lewis professionally and personally for more than twenty years, I write this letter to offer my wholehearted support for President Obama's nomination of Ms. Lewis to the United States District Court for the District of South Carolina. I am privileged to be able to speak to Ms. Lewis's professional and personal traits that qualify her to serve as a District Court Judge.

First, Ms. Lewis is a woman of sound character and integrity. She enjoys in our legal community a well-earned reputation for honesty and fairness in dealing with counsel and with the court. I have had the opportunity to serve as counsel in several cases with Ms. Lewis, and she conducts herself with integrity and honor at all times. When she makes a representation to you as opposing counsel, you can take it to the bank. She does not play loose with the facts or the law. When Ms. Lewis makes oral argument to the court, you can be assured that she has done her homework and will construe case law and statutes accurately and fairly. She does what a lawyer should do by educating and informing the court while zealously advocating for her client's interests. And when Ms. Lewis is your co-counsel or represents an opposing party, you better be prepared because she certainly will be. In short, Mary Lewis is a woman of character and integrity who will bring respect and honor to the United States District Court.

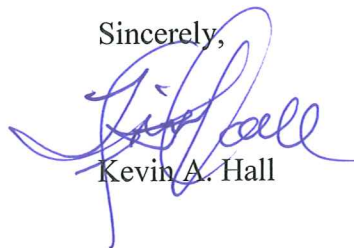
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Second, Mary Lewis is a fine legal talent. From the beginning of her legal career, she has shown tremendous intellectual capacity. She graduated from the University of South Carolina as a member of Order of the Coif, and, in the years since, she has continued to demonstrate keen analytical ability and effective written and oral advocacy skills. Ms. Lewis has a broad and comprehensive knowledge of the law and a breadth of practical experience that qualifies her to be an effective judge immediately. She has prepared and tried cases involving a wide range of legal theories in the state and federal courts, and her substantial experience qualifies her to serve on the bench. She commands the respect of the Bar for her intellectual ability, and she will continue to do so as a District Court Judge.

Third, Mary Lewis portrays that thing called "judicial temperament" that is so hard to define. To me, judicial temperament encompasses many qualities -- courtesy, patience, fairness and compassion, to name a few. I have known Ms. Lewis as a lawyer and as a friend, and I can tell you without equivocation that she is a compassionate soul. I have seen her and her family extend many kindnesses to people in need in our community, at all times respecting the recipient's inherent dignity and worth. Ms. Lewis is patient, and she is fair. She strives to treat people with respect and courtesy, regardless of the situation. In a hotly contested case in which we both were involved, tempers flared at times between lawyers for the various parties. Despite the pressure and the personalities involved, Ms. Lewis was at all times courteous and professional in her conduct. She does not rattle under pressure, and she does not lose her temper. Ms. Lewis also has a wonderful sense of humor that serves her very, very well.

Mary Lewis is a talented lawyer and an extraordinary woman. Her experience, integrity and intellect will make her an outstanding District Court Judge. I completely and unconditionally support her nomination, and I urge you to confirm her to the United States District Court for the District of Columbia.

Sincerely,



Kevin A. Hall

KAH/dj